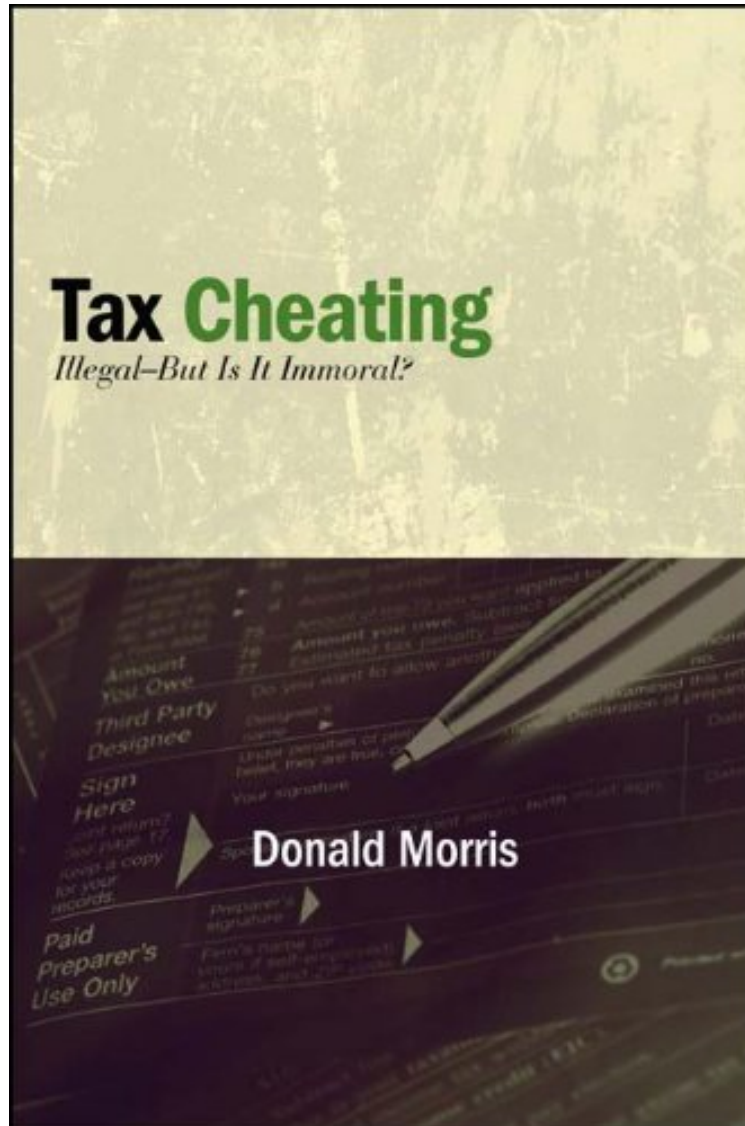


Tax Cheating: Illegal--But Is It Immoral? (Excelsior Editions)

Donald Morris

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Donald Morris : Tax Cheating: Illegal--But Is It Immoral? (Excelsior Editions) before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Tax Cheating: Illegal--But Is It Immoral? (Excelsior Editions):

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Donald Morris presents a thoroughly researched dissertation! By Jewel Reviewed by Stefan Vucak for Readers Favorite "Tax Cheating" is not a book one can take to bed and relax with. It questions and challenges the basis of the US Tax Code, and people's reasons to avoid, cheat and defraud on their tax statements. The book explores the unwieldy complexity of the tax law designed to allow widespread noncompliance. It is shown to impact social morality. The book also shows the inherent lack of fairness in the tax law, and a court system

that favors large corporations and wealthy individuals, while penalizing a small-time offender. It confirms that money and power are above the law. The book takes some digesting, and not everyone will find the meal satisfying. Donald Morris presents a thoroughly researched dissertation, demonstrating a complete mastery of the subject. In many respects, it reaffirms public preconceptions about the US tax system, and amusingly illustrates challenges to its legality. One minor problem is that Morris is often overly verbose and convoluted in his statements, over-explaining points that, instead of clarifying an argument, unnecessarily cloud the issue. This makes understanding the work in parts difficult and tends to deter the reader. However, it efficiently explores the impact the tax system has on the American social fabric, the unwillingness shown by Congress to make meaningful reforms, and people's disdain of its innate unfairness. Morris presents an unequaled perspective that left me nodding with agreement.

0 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Great read!

By A. Pezold This book has lots of good information. A must read. Donald Morris is a great professor, his students admire him greatly.

2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Perhaps everything you've ever thought about it...and more

By Neil R. Lichtman When I first saw this book, I thought it would be a romp through all the flora and fauna of tax creeps and a daffy excuse for their behavior. Then I saw the author was Donald Morris, whose book "Opportunity" I very favorably reviewed a few years ago. Donald Morris covers a topic as thoroughly as any author I've read. This time, in a mere 208 pages, he attacks this issue from ethical, philosophical, economic, behavioral and political dimensions, just to name five that come right to mind. Additionally, any author who grasps the essence of John Rawls while making stops at John Stuart Mills and Immanuel Kant will rate very favorably with me. If they aren't your cup of tea, don't let that stop you from reading this book anyway.

Early on, Morris establishes that 87% of Americans believe you should always pay all your legal taxes and only 4% advocate cheating to the max, leaving 9% somewhere in the middle. Why do people hold these three perspectives? How much is related to the general idea of obeying any law versus the specific issues of obeying the tax law? Morris establishes a range of cheating behavior all the way from the petty larceny that's part of many of us to deeply reasoned excuses for cheating, as well as unintentional cheating.

Morris discusses the roles of (1) punishment versus escaping punishment, (2) social approval and disapproval, (3) the letter of the law versus the spirit of the law, (4) fairness, (5) case law, (6) tax advisors, and (7) the roles, intentions and costs of government: the IRS, the Courts, and Congress, from issues like equity, fairness and justice to lobbies, among causal possibilities. Later, he links them to moral issues, especially whether there's a moral case for you to cheat on your taxes.

Morris also goes deeply into solutions...!

16! You might see some of your favorite solutions dismantled as well. He goes deepest into the nature of the tax code itself from its many intents to its complexity. One thing you can bet on is that whatever our Congress does in terms of "tax reform" it won't match some of the creative solutions offered here. Should every member of Congress and applicable parts of the Executive read this? Yes. Will they or their staffs? Probably not. That's too bad for all of us.

An examination of the ethical issues surrounding tax cheating and implications for public policy.

From unreported gambling winnings and inflated claims of the value of clothing donated to charity to money hidden in Swiss bank accounts and high-profile tax schemes plotted by celebrities and business leaders, the range of tax cheating opportunities is wide and the boundaries and moral status can be hazy. Considering the behavior of individuals and small businesses as well as the involvement of congress and the IRS, Donald Morris combines insights from law, psychology, sociology, criminology, accounting, economics, and philosophy to examine the ethical issues surrounding tax cheating and implications for tax policy.

...a unique perspective on the federal tax system in the US

... While many readers will disagree with [Morris's] conclusion ... the value of the book lies in the journey.

... CHOICE

This is not a how-to guide for tax cheaters, nor is it a green light to cheat. The author defines tax cheating as paying less than the law says we owe, whether this is done deliberately or not. His point is that Congress has the obligation to revise the Tax Code to make it simple, transparent, and equitable, so that all taxpayers should know what constitutes their fair share. Morris draws on a large pool of tax cases, experts, and moral philosophers to make his case, and he is grounded in the experience of ten years as a small business owner and tax preparer.

... Richard P. Mullin, author of *The Soul of Classical American Philosophy: The Ethical and Spiritual Insights of William James, Josiah Royce, and Charles Sanders Peirce*

Morris gives us a thorough collection of thoughts and quotations about a sensitive subject—how do morals and ethics affect the completion of a tax return? Who is more unethical, Congress in writing the current tax law or the taxpayer in paying too little tax? What motivates a citizen to volunteer to pay a tax bill? Does Congress really want to close the tax gap? Should a court apply only the letter of the law in a tax case, or should a higher moral principle also apply? By approaching the term "cheating" in a morally neutral manner, Morris removes much of the baggage that restricts the usual talk about taxes—the book allows for a more fruitful review of the economics of the deal between the citizen and the government, that we call taxation. Intriguing, fresh, accessible, up to date.

... William A. Raabe, coauthor of *Federal Tax Research, Ninth Edition*

Donald Morris is Associate Professor of Accounting at the University of Illinois Springfield. He is a CPA, Certified Fraud Examiner, and a former tax practitioner with eighteen years of experience, including ten years as owner of his own firm in the Chicago area. He is the coauthor (with Lois Ruffner Plank, Bryan R. Plank, and Christie Plank Ciraulo) of *Accounting Desk Book: The*

Accountant's Everyday Instant Answer Book, 2011 Edition, and the author of Opportunity: Optimizing Life's Chances and Dewey and the Behavioristic Context of Ethics.

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